

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-14. (Cancelled)

1 15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 14 33 wherein said
2 coating aids in ~~is for the purpose of~~ retaining said stent in a body lumen, ~~and wherein said stent~~
3 ~~tube can be removed upon~~ until degradation of said ~~material~~ coating.

16-27. (Cancelled)

1 28. (Previously Amended) An apparatus as recited in Claim 33 wherein said stent
2 includes a portion constructed from super elastic material.

29-32. (Cancelled)

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1 33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for maintaining a body lumen opening
2 comprising a stent with a distal end and a proximal end, said stent having a tubular shaped body
3 wall with a linear central axis when said stent is in a relaxed state, wherein (a) said body wall has
4 outer and inner diameters which flare outward at the distal end and the proximal end of said
5 stent, and wherein said diameters increase to form a bulbous middle section of said stent for the
6 purpose of providing resistance with a lumen wall upon installation of said stent in said lumen,
7 (b) said stent is constructed of a material that is collapsible to facilitate insertion in said lumen,
8 ~~and~~ expandable after placement in said lumen, and (c) the exterior surface of said stent includes a
9 biodegradable coating, whereby biodegradation of said coating reduces the size of said stent to
10 facilitate removal of said stent.

34. (Cancelled)